

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0037] as follows:

[0037] A slippery nonstick surface is generally provided to ease insertion and removal of the catheter 15. As shown in FIG. 5 the leading edge of the tip 29 of the catheter may be oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the catheter 15. As further illustrated in FIG. 5 the leading edge of the tip 29 is positioned contiguous with the opening 28 of the support needle 19.

The tip 29 of catheter 15 may be tapered into a curve to blend smoothly into the edge of support needle 19 (*see*, FIG. 5). The degree of this curved taper may be governed by a tradeoff between the decreased resistance to insertion of an extreme taper versus the fragility and tendency to peel back of a very thin leading edge. A preferred taper provides ease of insertion, a feedback signal to indicate entry of catheter 15 through the dura, and sufficient tensile strength to prevent peel back. The feedback signal may be described as a distinct “click” or a change in required insertion force. The “click” may be a sonic event, or may be perceptible only through the clinician’s fingers in contact with the assembly.